

Biologist/Instructor Opening for the Northeast Fisheries Observer Program

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The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is required, through legislative mandates, to collect, process and manage fishery dependent data and biological samples. Fishery dependent data are collected by NMFS certified observers deployed aboard U.S. domestic and foreign fishing vessels. These data are essential for the management of fisheries occurring in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the high seas beyond the EEZ. Observers are placed on domestic fishing vessels to document interactions with marine mammals and commercial fishing gear, and to collect data pertaining to fishing operations, fishing effort, catch (including by-catch and discard information), economics and vessel efficiency. Considerable effort is directed towards monitoring and sampling of protected species takes and of landed catch and discards. In order to provide adequate observer coverage as required, it is necessary to conduct observer training sessions on a semi-regular basis (in-house and road show sessions) to maintain an active observer workforce. Observer training sessions are required to teach specific Observer Program data collection protocols and to certify observers for deployment. Observer training sessions remain an essential component of the overall Observer Program.

Requirements:

The incumbent shall perform duties on-site for the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC), Fisheries Sampling Branch located at Technology Park, Falmouth, Massachusetts using supplied computers. In general, the incumbent shall be responsible for assisting the Northeast Fisheries Observing Program's (NEFOP) Training Coordinator with observer training sessions. Travel and some sea duty is required. Ability to work flexible hours during training session and some overtime is needed.

Period of Performance:

Specific Tasks:

- * Responsible as the Lead Instructor for various gear types (including Gillnet, Scallop and/or Otter Trawl) and the NEFOP fishery protocols as needed.
- * Required to perform training trips as lead instructor during trainings.
- * Assist with development and updating of the observer training curriculum.
- * Assist with overall observer training responsibilities including, but not limited to:
 - coordination of training materials, grades, agendas, schedules, logistics, travel, training workshops (local and exportable), and invited participants.
- * Train observers on a number of program protocols, i.e. will be required to prepare presentations and observer materials to effectively teach observer program logs and protocols.
- * Required to edit data and to become familiar with protocols for all observed fisheries.
- * Required to develop methods to improve training, i.e. develop new training aids, analyze observer performance, develop innovative training methods.

- * Complete various training related projects as tasked by the training coordinator.
- * Assist with monitoring observer performance once observers begin training trips, working with NEFOP editors to track performance.
- * Continue to update and improve the training manual for all sessions.
- * Provide student evaluations to the training coordinator for each training session.
- * Work with NEFOP staff in the development of new protocols, the scope to include writing and at-sea testing.
- * Communicate with newly trained observers to obtain feedback to be used to improve future training sessions.
- * Required to perform observer duties at sea (up to 5 trips per year) in order to become familiar with protocols, data collection, observer responsibilities and issues observers encounter while working as a government representative in a field setting.
- * Responsible to assist other instructors with fish collection and fish identification lab sessions during observer trainings.
- * Responsible to assist in organizing marine mammal necropsy lab and turtle identification lab sessions during observer trainings.
- * Must work with other NEFOP staff and outside experts to develop new training tools and lesson plans
- * Must be available for periodic overtime and weekend assignments.

Qualifications

A B.S. degree in Marine Biology, Fisheries, or a related field, is required. Previous Observer experience is desirable. Specialties in NE fisheries (trawl/gillnet/scallop) and familiarity with the Northeast Observer Program, or other Observer programs, is preferred. Familiarization with northeast fish and marine mammal species is a must. Higher educational degrees and those applicants with adult teaching experience is desirable. Experience in curriculum development is preferred. All applicants should have some experience as instructors, trainers, or curriculum designers. Must be motivated, self sufficient, independent, as well as, a strong team player. Must have the ability to perform at-sea duties. Must attend and pass the first available observer training session to become a NMFS certified observer (unless currently certified). Must have a proficiency in software including word processing, presentations (PowerPoint), spreadsheets (Excel). Additional preferred skills include: web development, ORACLE database knowledge, ADOBE PageMaker familiarization, First-Aid/CPR certified, at-sea safety training/familiarity. Travel is required. Must possess a valid drivers license.

If you are interested in applying please contact Laura Shulman (Integrated Statistics) at lsbulman@integratedstatistics.com.